

Kootenai County Commissioner District 2

	Bruce Mattare
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Bruce Mattare, and I am your current Kootenai County Commissioner for District 2. I'm running for re-election because the rapid growth is affecting our quality of life and we need to implement responsible growth strategies to avoid taxing people out of their homes. I'm also running to ensure that your county government operates with transparency and accountability. My policy focus is on responsible growth, fiscal discipline, and making sure government decisions reflect the interests of all county residents—not special interests or select groups. More about my policy platform can be found at www.BruceForCommissioner.com .
2. What is your opinion of eminent domain? Under what circumstances do you believe it should be used?	Eminent domain should only be used as a last resort and strictly for essential public infrastructure projects. Private property rights are fundamental, and government should not take property unless absolutely necessary for the public good, such as critical roads or utilities. When it is used, property owners must be treated fairly and compensated appropriately.
3. If faced with a budget deficit, would you support cutting spending or increasing taxes? What would be your reasons for this decision?	I would prioritize cutting spending and improving efficiency before considering tax increases. Government should live within its means just like families and businesses do. By focusing on better policy decisions, reducing waste, and ensuring growth pays for itself, we can address deficits without placing additional burdens on taxpayers. However, growth does not currently pay for itself, which means current residents are forced to pay for those costs as a result of growth.
4. Do you support or oppose forced annexation? Why or why not?	I oppose forced annexation because property owners should have a voice in decisions that affect their land and governance. Forcing residents into city limits without their consent undermines individual rights. Growth and expansion should be based on cooperation, not coercion.
5. Our county is growing very rapidly, where do you see we need to improve infrastructure and what are your plans to improve it?	Growth does not pay for itself. My number one priority is to implement impact fees, but not all cities will collect the fee for us. Fortunately, we recently expanded our courthouse and jail facilities, which gives us some time before the need to expand again. However, we are not saving enough to pay for future expansion. My policy has been to require growth to pay for itself through the use of impact fees and responsible growth planning. Strong planning and fair cost allocation are essential for keeping individual property taxes lower.
6. What is your opinion of red-light cameras and license plate readers? Should they be used by the County?	I'm not a fan of either. Red light cameras are a hard NO. Those typically become revenue mechanisms for local governments. License plate readers have helped solve crimes, but the opportunity for abuse is great. When talking about this issue during community events, there were strong opinions on both sides. I was open to a one-year trial where results could be presented to the community, but those numbers were never shared. Unless there are compelling reasons for them and the community wants them, then I am generally not in support of them.

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7. Do you support or oppose Urban Renewal Districts? Why or why not?	The intention of them is good, but the execution has often been poor. I am extremely cautious about Urban Renewal Districts, particularly when they lack transparency or shift financial burdens onto taxpayers. These programs should be carefully evaluated to ensure they truly benefit the community and do not create unintended consequences like unfair tax burdens on residents.
8. Do you support or oppose requirements for developers to pay for community infrastructure?	I strongly support requiring developers to pay for the infrastructure impacts created by their projects. This ensures fairness and prevents existing residents from subsidizing growth. It aligns costs with those who generate them.
9. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	I am accountable to the voters, taxpayers and residents of Kootenai County. I'd like to think that my record reflects that. Taxpayers are the ones who fund government and are directly impacted by the BOCC's decisions. My role is to represent their interests with transparency, integrity, and sound decision-making. I also write about important issues facing our community with links to BOCC meeting videos and supporting documentation at my website www.bruceforcommissioner.com/blog .
10. In recent years some groups have advocated for legalizing marijuana in our state, do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I disagree with legalization. While my focus is on ensuring proper public safety funding, decisions about marijuana legalization should ultimately reflect the will of Idaho voters. As commissioner, my priority would be how such policies impact safety, fiscal resources, and the community.
11. County Commissioners have an enormous responsibility with the many departments that run our county. Which departments in your opinion should receive priority for increased budgets?	I don't believe any department or elected official should get priority funding unless he or she can illustrate effectively the fiscal need. Too often commissioners are presented with emotional, verbal arguments as to why they should get additional funding. To achieve true accountability, departments must develop standard reporting metrics that you, the taxpayer, can see and understand, to determine funding priorities.
12. What should the county's policy be regarding federal funding of county projects?	It generally comes down to what "strings" are attached to the funding. Most federal grants are to spend the money for the intended purpose and then close out. I have no issue with that. However, I believe the county should 100% AVOID AT ALL COSTS any funding that compromises local control or creates future financial burdens.

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13. What is your opinion on restricting public comment at county meetings? Why do you hold this opinion?	Public comment should never be restricted, with the exception of a time limit. We offer it at the beginning and ending of most BOCC meetings and I'd like to keep it that way. Transparency and citizen participation are critical to good government. Restricting public input undermines trust and limits accountability.
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	My business and education background includes: building and managing successful multi-million dollar businesses, along with experience in finance, technology, policy making and having earned an MBA. This has given me real-world leadership experience, budgeting skills, and a results-oriented mindset that I bring to county government. As your current District 2 County Commissioner with 3-1/2 years of experience, we have already made significant improvements in public safety staffing and reducing costs in your county government but there is more work to do. I hope to earn your continued support. You can see more about me at www.BruceForCommissioner.com .